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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 34 | Min 23 | Humidity 39% Partly Cloudy Sensex 79,595 | Nifty 24,167 | Gold 98,111 | Silver 95,614 | Dollar 85.19 | Euro 97.67 | GBP 113.93

SMOKE & MIRRORS

Police warn against misuse of social media after road rage incident sparks misinformation

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SEALED SHUT

BBMP seals 187 establishments after number of unauthorised PGs surpasses officially registered ones

PAGE 4

Poor quality food, lack of basic hygiene facilities in Karnataka's prisons spark calls for urgent reform; daily food budget for each prisoner stands at measly Rs 85

BEHIND BARS, ON AN EMPTY STOMACH

Lack of proper menstrual hygiene support for female inmates

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Concerns over the poor quality of food and lack of basic hygiene facilities in Karnataka's prisons have sparked calls for urgent reform, as a recent complaint filed with the Karnataka State Human Rights Commission highlights troubling conditions faced by inmates.

The daily food budget for each prisoner stands at just Rs. 85, covering breakfast, lunch, evening snacks, and dinner, a figure that raises serious questions about nutritional adequacy amid rising food prices. More worrying, however, is the 14-hour gap between dinner and the next day's breakfast, a routine that puts inmates, especially those with health issues like diabetes and hypertension, at risk.

Advocate and human rights activist Narasimha Murthy, who filed the representation, said, "The current food practices are not only nutritionally inadequate but also inhumane. A 14-hour fasting window is dangerous for inmates with medical conditions. A light night meal or snack must be introduced

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

> "The current food practices are not only nutritionally inadequate but also inhumane. A 14-hour fasting window is dangerous for inmates with medical conditions
>
> —Narasimha Murthy, advocate

Element of alarm

Groundwater in nearly 50% of locations studied in Doddaballapur seen to have 10-15 times permissible limit of Uranium

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Dangerously high levels of Uranium – 10 to 15 times the permissible limit prescribed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) – have been recorded in groundwater in Doddaballapur taluk from at least six locations.

The six locations - Chowgadanhalli, Gundangere Cross, Halekote, Iyyanahalli, Kalkunte, and one more – were found to have uranium levels more than 200 µg/l, with Gundangere Cross recording the highest level at 485.448 µg/l.

Overall, nearly 50% of the locations studied in the taluk had higher levels of this heavy metal.

While WHO has given a limit of 30 µg/l, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has not mentioned any standard for Uranium in drinking water and follows the WHO guidelines. Recently, a study by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) suggested 60 micrograms per litre of Uranium in drinking water as a safe level for the Indian scenario.

However, more than 30% of the samples have recorded higher levels of this heavy metal, even going by BARC's lenient prescribed limits.

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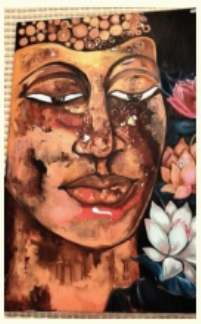
THINGS TO DO

01 Art awakening

Artisera is presenting 'KARTAB', Gurmeet Marwah's first-ever solo exhibition, featuring paintings, woodcuts, and sculptures. Through his artworks, Gurmeet compels viewers to pause, reflect, and question the unseen forces at play in their existence. **Where: Artisera, Indiranagar; When: April 12 to May 4**

02 Creative compassion



Bruno's Pet Friendly cafe will be displaying several pieces of art for the UCS fundraiser. Every rupee goes towards the food, care, and medical assistance for community dogs. A painting by filmmaker Jaishankar Pandit will go towards the treatment and rehab of Evie, a breeder discard. **Where: Bruno's cafe, Halasuru; When: April 14 to May 1, 9 am to 9 pm**

03 Sacred rhythm

Chiguru Nrithyalaya is presenting a Bharatanatyam performance to bring to life the divine essence and multifaceted nature of Lord Ayyappa. **Where: Ravindra Kalakshetra, Sampangi Rama Nagar; When: April 27, 6 pm**

04 Musical maestros

HSBC is presenting a concert featuring legendary singer Hariharan and globally renowned flute virtuoso Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia. **Where: Courtyard, Phoenix Marketcity; When: May 4, 7 pm**

05 Poetic insight

New Acropolis is organising 'The Way of Heart: Living Rumi's wisdom in our times', a journey into the teachings of Rumi. **Where: New Acropolis, Jayanagar; When: April 29, 7.30 pm**

BMRCL plans waterproofing to prevent rainwater leakage

Waterproofing work to only be conducted at night to avoid disruption of services, with maintenance expected to take nearly 18 months to finish, say officials

With Namma Metro completing 14 years, the cost of station maintenance has significantly increased with frequent issues such as rainwater leakage, lift repairs, escalator malfunctions, and tile damages

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Bengaluru Metro has been operational for over a decade, but rainwater leakage at stations continues to be a persistent issue. To address this, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has decided to undertake waterproofing work across all metro stations on the Purple and Green Lines.

A BMRCL official said that the initiative will be implemented at key stations on the Purple Line's Reach-1 (Baiyappanahalli–MG Road), Reach-2 (Mysore Road–Magadi Road), Reach-2 Extension (Mysore Road–Challaghatta), as well as Chickpet and KR Market stations on the Green Line. "The waterproofing project will cover various structural elements, including roofing sheets, RCC terraces, RCC/wall joints, GI roofs, and expansion joints, to prevent water seepage," said the BMRCL official.

Rising maintenance costs

With Namma Metro completing 14 years, the cost of station maintenance has significantly increased. Frequent issues such as rainwater leakage, lift repairs, escalator malfunctions, and tile damages have further added to the expenses. BMRCL officials have also cited rising costs as a key factor impacting station upkeep.

Work to be carried out only at night

Officials said that since metro operations cannot be disrupted, the waterproofing work will only be conducted at night, after metro services conclude, and must be completed before morning operations resume. BMRCL has estimated that the maintenance work will take approximately one and a half years to complete.

More leakage issues expected

With the monsoon season fast approaching, BMRCL has only just floated the tender for the waterproofing work. The tendering process is expected to conclude by June, coinciding with the onset of heavy rains. Due to this delay, metro stations are likely to experience water leakage again this year.

Slippery floors pose a saftey risk

Rakesh Kumar, a regular metro commuter, noted that during heavy rains, water often seeps into underground metro stations. He said that this leads to the formation of puddles on platforms and concourses. "Despite efforts to seal small cracks in tunnel walls with cement, seepage has not been fully controlled," he said. He highlighted that there have been multiple instances of commuters slipping and falling due to wet floors.

High groundwater pressure

Sources said that the groundwater table near underground metro stations on the Purple Line is only 4–5 metres below the surface, while the metro stations themselves are located 15–16 metres underground. This causes continuous groundwater seepage despite structural reinforcements.

Stations near Cubbon Park, Vidhana Soudha, and Sir M Visvesvaraya have particularly high groundwater pressure, as the water table in these areas is just a few metres below the surface. This natural pressure makes rainwater seepage a recurring problem. With waterproofing work set to take over a year, it remains to be seen how effectively BMRCL can tackle this long-standing issue before the next monsoon season.

BMTC offers free travel for PUC students

In a move aimed at easing commute for students during the upcoming II PUC Exam-2, the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has announced free travel in its ordinary bus services for students appearing for the exams. This facility will be available from April 24 to May 8, 2025.

According to a release from BMTC, students can avail the free travel from their residence to the examination center by simply producing their exam hall ticket or admission ticket when boarding the bus.

The BMTC has long been providing concessional bus passes to school and college students, helping them travel at reduced fares from their homes to educational institutions. To further assist students during the exam period, additional bus trips will be operated if necessary, depending on the volume of demand. BMTC has urged students to carry their hall tickets and cooperate with conductors to avail the temporary but beneficial service.

AC electric buses to hit the roads soon

For the first time in the city, BMTC's air-conditioned electric buses are set to hit the roads, but remain stationed at the depot awaiting deployment. The delay is due to the incomplete charging infrastructure at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Devanahalli. Currently, BMTC's air-conditioned services run on diesel-powered Volvo buses. The new electric fleet, supplied by OHM (a subsidiary of Ashok Leyland), will mark a transition to greener, cooler public transport. Until now, electric buses operated by BMTC were non-AC.

A BMTC official said that the project is part of the central government's FAME-2 initiative, which offers incentives to private firms to promote electric vehicles. "OHM will not only supply, but also maintain the buses and provide drivers, while BMTC will handle operations and pay Rs 65.8 per kilometre as lease," the official said. The official also highlighted that around nine charging points are under construction at the airport. Once completed, KIA authorities, the energy department, and the fire safety department must inspect and clear the facilities. Operations will only commence after no-objection certificates are obtained.

VTU warns students against misleading social media posts

Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) has issued a cautionary advisory to students, urging them to refrain from relying on unverified YouTube videos and social media posts that claim to provide information about official university circulars and guidelines. In an official statement, the university noted that several online videos are circulating with inaccurate or misleading information, which could lead to confusion and adversely affect students' academic progress. "To ensure you receive accurate and reliable information, students are advised to consult their faculty mentors or departmental authorities rather than depending on unverified digital sources," the advisory stated.

VTU officials emphasised that mentors and faculty members remain the most trusted and up-to-date sources of academic information and guidance. Students are encouraged to directly reach out to them in case of any doubts or concerns. "All principals are hereby directed to inform all concerned students and staff members about the contents of this circular to prevent the spread of misinformation," the circular concluded. — BMB

Cops flag game of smoke & mirrors on social media

Cops urge public to verify facts after viral road rage video distorts events; CCTV footage contradicts post, revealing both parties engaged in heated scuffle

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In today's fast-paced digital world, where information can go viral in seconds, Bengaluru Police are urging citizens to verify facts before sharing incidents online. The appeal comes after a recent road rage case near Gopalan Mall, which was widely misrepresented on social media, sparking public outrage based on a one-sided video. Authorities warn that misusing social platforms to spread unverified or false narratives not only misleads the public but also hampers legal proceedings and delays justice.

Bengaluru Police Commissioner B Dayananda, during a press conference on Tuesday, said, "People are absolutely free to upload videos and share content on social media. However, when it comes to incidents involving crime, road rage, theft, or any situation that requires police action, we urge the public to first report the matter to us, either through the nearest police station or by calling 112".

The cautionary message follows a road rage altercation near Gopalan Mall in CV Raman Nagar involving Wing Commander Shiladitya Bose and call centre employee Vikas Kumar. Initially, Bose uploaded a video online claiming he was assaulted without provocation during a confrontation with the biker. The post quickly went viral, drawing sharp reactions and portraying Kumar as the sole aggressor.

However, further investigation, including CCTV footage and eyewitness accounts, revealed that both parties were physically involved in the scuffle, contradicting Bose's narrative. The footage also showed Bose assaulting Kumar after he had fallen, leading police to file charges against him, including attempt to murder and voluntarily causing hurt, whose cases have been registered under the Byappanahalli police station.

Unverified information can escalate tensions

Authorities stressed that uploading unverified or misleading videos, especially on sensitive matters like language, community, or religion, can quickly escalate tensions. Unless a complaint is officially lodged, police cannot initiate action. This leads to unnecessary delays in investigation and sometimes the loss of crucial evidence.

The police have urged the public to exercise their freedom of expression with caution and responsibility. "Let the police do our job. If you're not satisfied with the response, you can always go to social media later," Dayananda added.

While social media plays a vital role in spreading awareness, the misuse of these platforms to influence legal outcomes or sway public opinion can have serious repercussions. The police continue to investigate the case and have summoned Bose for questioning.

As Bengaluru Police emphasise, responsible reporting, both online and offline, is essential in ensuring justice is served based on facts, not just viral posts.

Rakesh Malli questioned in Ricky Rai attack case

As part of the ongoing investigation into the attack on Ricky Rai, the Ramanagara district police on Tuesday summoned prime suspect Rakesh Malli for questioning at the Bidadi Police Station. Malli appeared along with his advocate and was interrogated for over two hours by Superintendent of Police Srinivas Gowda and senior officers to examine his possible involvement in the case.

The police had earlier questioned four individuals. Investigators, assisted by ballistic experts, are currently examining the bullet used and the firearms found both with the gunman and at Ricky Rai's residence.

So far, no arrests have been made. The police are continuing to piece together the sequence of events and are pursuing all leads to uncover the full story behind the attack. **BMB**

IAS officer caught in saree snare

An IAS officer has filed a complaint against an online vendor for cheating her out of ₹850 while attempting to buy a Madurai Sungudi cotton saree featured in a YouTube video by Poornima Collection.

In the FIR filed on April 17, the complainant stated that she discovered a video featuring the saree on the YouTube channel Poornima Collection. Interested, she contacted the seller via the provided WhatsApp number, and followed the instructions to transfer ₹850, including shipping charges, through Google Pay on March 10, 2025.

However, the saree never arrived. Attempts to reach the vendor went unanswered. While the financial loss may appear small, she urged in her complaint that the same seller could be running a large-scale scam. The police have registered a case. **BMB**

Advertorial

East West Institute of Technology Honours Visionary Leader and Launches Student-Centric Intiatives

East West Institute of Technology (EWIT) marked a significant milestone on Tuesady, with the unveiling of a statue dedicated to the late Ravikiran C N, the former Chairman of the East West Group of Institutions (EWGI), on the occasion of his birth anniversary. Ravikiran, remembered as a dynamic and inspirational leader, was instrumental in shaping the growth and success of EWGI. His firm commitment to academic excellence, infrastructure development, and student-centric initiatives laid a strong foundation for the institution's continued progress. His legacy continues to guide EWGI's mission to empower future generations of students.

The unveiling ceremony was a tribute to Ravikiran's enduring contributions, and it was followed by the announcement of a groundbreaking initiative aimed at enhancing student experiences.

"Industry on Campus @ EWIT" is a facility established with the goal of bringing industry closer to education. It provides students with invaluable opportunities for internships, industry-led projects, mentorship, and real-time exposure to corporate practices — all within the campus itself.

EWGI has also expanded its global reach by forging new international academic collaborations. These partnerships, part of the Global Academic Collaboration programme, will offer students access to enriched academic experiences and international exposure. Notable collaborations include Seokyeong University in South Korea (MBA & leadership), Vittenberg University in the Netherlands (Applied/Medical/Engineering Sciences), Regent College in the UK (Business, Health, Law), Regent Middle East in Dubai (Tech-driven learning), and MVSU in the USA (upcoming in Engineering, Arts & Sciences). These developments are only the beginning, as EWIT plans to roll out further progressive initiatives aimed at enriching students' academic journeys and preparing them for successful careers.

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS OF EWGI

- New Academic Branches Introduced: Launched programmes in Artificial Intelligence, Agro Technology, Bachelor of Hotel Management (BHM), and Law to meet emerging industry demands.
- Center of Excellence: Established to promote innovation and industry-academic collaboration in tech-driven research and training.
- Professors of Practice: Onboarded seasoned industry experts to deliver skill development programmes aligned with real-world applications.
- Autonomous Status: Enabled EWIT to introduce dynamic, industry-relevant curriculum updates and cutting-edge programmes.
- AI-Driven Placement Application: Resulted in a 60%+ increase in student placements, offering 24/7 personalised placement support and career tracking.
- Industry on Campus @ EWIT: Integrated internships, live industry projects, and mentorship within the campus to enhance practical learning.
- Overseas University Connect Programmes: Expanded global academic partnerships to provide international exposure and collaborative learning opportunities.

BBMP seals 187 PGs in Bengaluru over violations

Lack of licenses, zoning violations, and poor food safety trigger closures; thousands of PGs still unregistered

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The number of unauthorised Paying Guest (PG) accommodations in Bengaluru has now exceeded that of officially registered ones, raising serious concerns over safety, hygiene, and regulatory compliance. In a crackdown on violators, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has sealed 187 PGs across various zones for flouting building bye-laws and operating without the required permits.

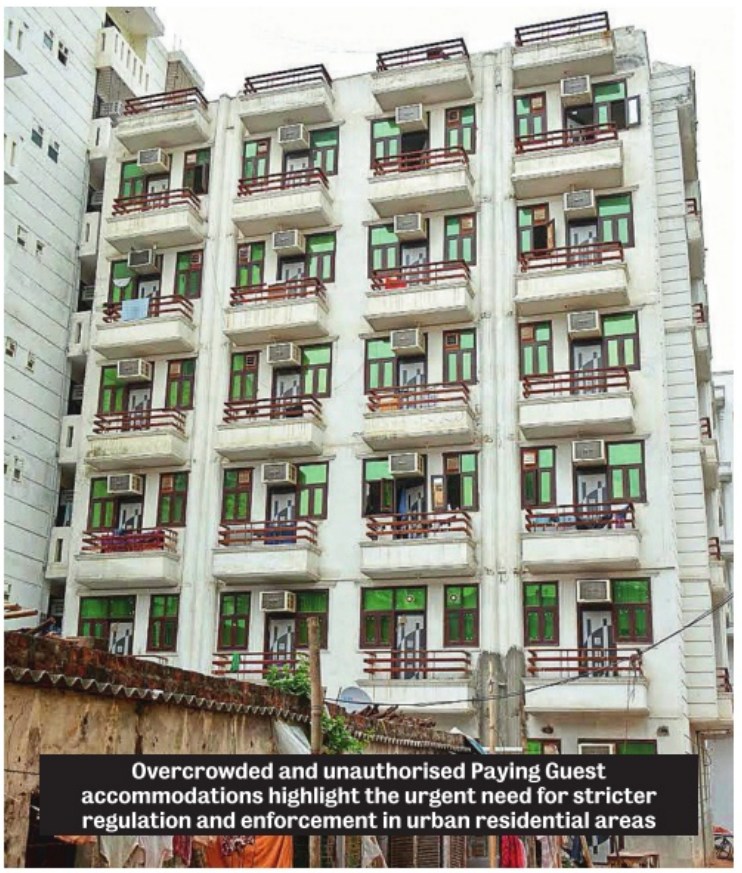
A BBMP official said, "In August last year, the BBMP issued detailed guidelines for PG accommodations under the BBMP Act, 2020, mandating strict compliance. Since then, zonal health officers, medical officers, and senior health inspectors have been regularly inspecting PG facilities within their jurisdictions. However, even after eight months, many PGs have failed to adhere to the prescribed norms, leading to closure actions.

According to the guidelines, PG operators with an in-house kitchen are required to obtain a business license from the BBMP and secure a mandatory Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) license within three months. However, many continue to operate without this crucial license. Additionally, several PGs are functioning in residential areas on roads less than 40 feet wide, violating zoning regulations that prohibit commercial activities in such localities.

South Zone Health Officer Dr Kalpana confirmed that several PG accommodations have been sealed for non-compliance and unauthorized operations. In the Mahadevapura zone alone, around 100 PG kitchens were shut down for operating without the necessary licenses, while 55 others were closed for failing to maintain food quality or obtain FSSAI approval. Of the more than 500 PGs in the zone, only 150 are officially licensed by the BBMP.

> **"We urge all PG owners and operators to strictly adhere to the BBMP's published guidelines and licensing rules**
> – Senior BBMP officer

In the North Zone, only 361 out of 762 PG accommodations comply with BBMP norms. So far, 66 notices have been issued, and 12 PGs have been sealed. In the Dasarahalli Zone, 121 of the 137 PGs are authorised, with two non-compliant ones shut down. In the West Zone, 231 PGs hold valid licenses, while 132 continue to operate without authorisation; 16 PGs have been sealed here. Officials from other zones such as Bommanahalli, RR Nagar, and Yelahanka were unavailable for comment. However, a broader concern persists—the lack of accurate data. Despite estimates suggesting that 20,000 to 25,000 PGs are operating across Bengaluru, the BBMP reportedly lacks a centralised and reliable registry.



Overcrowded and unauthorised Paying Guest accommodations highlight the urgent need for stricter regulation and enforcement in urban residential areas

Members of the Bengaluru PG Association have criticised the BBMP's enforcement drive, claiming that the closures have caused hardship to residents. They argued that some PGs were sealed under the pretext of the 40-feet road rule and stated that appeals for operational clearance have already been submitted to the BBMP Special Commissioner.

"We urge all PG owners and operators to strictly adhere to the BBMP's published guidelines and licensing rules," said a senior BBMP officer, adding that the crackdown is intended to ensure safety, hygiene, and legal compliance in a sector that is vital for students and young professionals. However, the action also underscores the growing need for a more streamlined and transparent regulatory framework.

High Court raises compensation in fatal collision case

Fatal crash leads to increased payout of ₹24 lakh to claimants after appeal and legal review

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

The High Court upheld the ruling of the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal in Bengaluru, which held the bus driver at fault for parking the vehicle on the road without its lights on. The tribunal determined that the APSRTC bus driver was 30% responsible for the negligence that resulted in a fatal accident in 2005.

On June 27 that year, Bengaluru residents Doreswamy Reddy, his wife N Jyothi, their son N Prashanth, and daughter-in-law Supraja were returning from Tirupati in a car driven by Rajagopal. At around 8.45 pm, the car collided with a stationary APSRTC bus at the Gandlapalli bus stop on the Chittoor–Palamaner Road, resulting in the deaths of Reddy and Prashanth. The claimants argued that the bus had been improperly parked without hazard or parking lights. Both drivers were accused of negligence.

The tribunal awarded a total of ₹28 lakh across four claim petitions, including ₹16.8 lakh for Prashanth's death. It attributed 70% of the negligence to the car driver and 30% to the bus driver. APSRTC challenged the Rs 28 lakh compensation through four separate appeals, asserting that the car driver was solely responsible for the accident. Conversely, Supraja and Jyothi contested the Rs 16.8 lakh awarded for Prashanth's death, arguing that the amount was inadequate considering his young age and his role as a partner in a construction company. A division bench comprising Justices K S Mudagal and C M Poonacha observed that the incident occurred at 8.45 pm, with the bus parked on the left side of a 40-foot-wide road without parking lights. The bench dismissed APSRTC's appeals.

Regarding the appeal for increased compensation, the bench noted the lack of sufficient documentation to support the deceased's income, aside from post-death tax returns. The bench upheld the tribunal's assessment of a Rs 12,000 monthly income. Citing Supreme Court precedents, the bench ruled that the claimants should receive ₹24 lakh with 6% interest, instead of the Rs 16.8 lakh awarded by the tribunal for this claim. — BMB

Traffic police win Golden Peacock for Innovation

The Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) has won the Golden Peacock Award for Innovative Product/Service 2025, presented by the Institute of Directors, India. The award was given for BTP's initiative ASTraM (Actionable Intelligence for Sustainable Transformation Management) at a ceremony held on April 22, 2025, at Al Habtoor Palace, Dubai.

ASTraM uses AI-driven traffic management, citizen-engagement apps, and eco-friendly enforcement strategies. It offers congestion alerts, incident reporting via a BOT-enabled app, event planning, and automated number plate recognition.

The smart traffic engine gives real-time insights into Bengaluru's traffic, helping authorities make data-driven decisions. BTP's efforts have improved traffic flow, reduced congestion, and enhanced enforcement, earning global recognition and setting a standard for sustainable urban traffic management. — BMB

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Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Garbage zone
Chandra Layout

Waste has accumulated near the BBMP office on 14th Cross, opposite to a store in Chandra Layout, close to the transformer. The area requires immediate attention from the authorities.

Safety threat
Agaram Road

A low-hanging BESCOM wire, tied precariously to a defence grill near a garage on Lower Agaram Road, hangs just five feet above the ground—posing a serious safety risk to pedestrians and motorists.

Footpath encroachment
Yelahanka

A two wheeler showroom in Yelahanka has encroached upon the footpath, forcing pedestrians to walk on the road and putting their safety at risk.

BM WoW Wednesday
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Which popular concert venue in the city was also featured in the 1974 British film Ghost Story?
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Police crack IPL betting rings, arrest 14+ gamblers

Illegal betting and black-market ticket sweep uncovers major gambling syndicates, seizing assets worth ₹2.65 crore

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As cricket fever grips the nation with the Tata IPL 2025 in full swing, the Bengaluru police have been busy off the field, cracking down on illegal betting and black-market ticket sales. Over two weeks, from April 2 to April 18, police across 15 jurisdictions in the city carried out a coordinated operation targeting gambling syndicates and touts around Chinnaswamy Stadium and beyond, arresting around 14 individuals.

During the operations, officials seized cash, betting chips, bank account funds, mobile phones, laptops, and tickets worth several crores. In total, around ₹2.65 crore worth of assets were confiscated, including ₹2.1 crore in betting chips, ₹35 lakh in bank accounts, ₹2.5 lakh in cash, 28 mobile phones, a Lenovo laptop, and 33 IPL tickets.

Major hauls

City Market Police was the first to strike on April 2, nabbing a suspect involved in cricket betting. Seized from him were three mobile phones, ₹3,150 in cash, ₹9,115 banked, and betting chips worth a staggering ₹1.06 lakh. On the same day, Subramanyapura Police arrested another individual who had amassed over ₹10.27 lakh in chips alone.

Widespread betting

On April 10, Jeevan Bhima Nagar and Yelahanka Police made significant busts. The former seized ₹3.68 lakh in bank transactions and ₹2.43 lakh in chips, while the latter uncovered a network with a Lenovo laptop, ₹7.2 lakh in chips, and ₹3.7 lakh in online payments.

Ticket trafficking

The Cubbon Park Police Station emerged as the epicentre of Kalasante action, leading arrests in both ticket resale and betting. Individuals were found hoarding complementary and paid tickets, selling them at inflated rates. In one instance, police arrested five men with 8 complimentary tickets, 5 mobile phones worth ₹50,000.

Woman steals gold from dad's house

The Marathahalli police have arrested a 36-year-old woman for allegedly stealing gold ornaments from her father's house while the family was away on a religious trip.

The incident came to light after R Raju, a resident of Yamaluru, returned home from Kashi on March 27 with his family and discovered that gold valuables weighing 258 grams, worth around ₹21 lakh, were missing from their wardrobe. The house showed no signs of forced entry.

Suspecting that someone familiar with their travel plans and the location of the valuables may be involved, Raju raised doubts about a few close relatives, including his daughter, sister, and nephew. Based on his inputs and the police began questioning those named.

During the investigation, Raju's daughter, Shobha, was summoned for inquiry. After sustained questioning, she reportedly confessed to having committed the theft due to financial distress. —BMB

Brothers arrested for chain snatching

Banaswadi Police have arrested two brothers in connection with a gold chain snatching incident and recovered stolen property worth ₹1.15 lakh, including a 10.3-gram gold chain and a stolen two-wheeler.

The incident took place in the HRBR Layout, where an elderly woman was attacked while walking along the 8th C Main Road. Two miscreants on a two-wheeler snatched her gold chain and fled the scene. A complaint was registered at the Banaswadi police station, leading to the launch of an investigation.

Based on leads, the police traced and arrested the two main suspects from a house in Basaveshwara Nagar. The accused, Sudheer (44), a freelancer, and Rajat (38), an employee at a private firm, are brothers.

During interrogation, the brothers confessed to the crime and revealed that the two-wheeler used in the snatching was stolen from the same locality. —BMB

Halasuru residents slam BBMP, police over illegal flexes during car festival

Residents, activists criticise authorities for ignoring High Court's ban

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The Residents and social activists are not happy with the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) authorities and Halasuru Police for not implementing the ban on illegal flexes and banners effectively. They have said that illegal flexes and banners were put up in and around Halasuru on the occasion of the car festival held on Saturday night. They have blamed local leaders and politicians vying among themselves to put up banners and flexes without permission from the BBMP.

They are now urging BBMP authorities to remove the banners and flexes immediately and take strict action against those responsible for violating the ban.

"I have complained to the BBMP authorities on several occasions about the illegal flexes and banners, but nothing has been done. The police have also failed to remove them," said BR Chandran, a social activist from Halasuru. It may be recalled that the BBMP Chief Commissioner had earlier directed ward engineers to take necessary steps to remove illegal flexes and banners. During a meeting held on Monday with BBMP officials and engineers, the Chief Commissioner reiterated the importance of implementing the High Court's order on illegal flexes and banners and instructed ward engineers to lodge complaints with the police against those responsible.

However, activists point out that the BBMP ward engineer and Halasuru police failed to take any action against the banners and flexes put up by various leaders conveying greetings to the public and devotees on the occasion of the Halasuru Car Festival.

Residents and social activists have also raised concerns over the inaction of the police in removing banners that were displayed on buildings near the Halasuru Police Station.

Flexes with anti-socials' photos spark outrage amid ongoing civic inaction

> **"Despite BBMP's plan to keep the city clean and the High Court's order, violation of the ban on illegal flexes and banners continues in the city**
>
> – Vinod Jacob, Namma Bengaluru Foundation

"I even tried to raise the issue during the peace meeting held at the temple, but it was of no use. Some miscreants even attempted to manhandle me for complaining to the police about the illegal banners," said Chandran.

Activists further claim that many of the flexes feature the images of anti-social elements, which they say are not only illegal but have also become an eyesore.

"Despite the BBMP's drive to keep the city clean and the High Court's clear directive, the violation of the ban on illegal flexes and banners continues unchecked. Authorities must act decisively to remove these eyesores that tarnish the image of Bengaluru," said Vinod Jacob from Namma Bengaluru Foundation.

Meanwhile, BBMP Assistant Executive Engineer Ramesh said that workers have already been assigned to remove the banners and flexes. "The majority of the flexes and banners have been removed. The remaining will also be cleared shortly," he assured.

HC upholds Siddaramaiah's election

The Karnataka High Court dismissed a petition on Tuesday that contested Congress leader and current Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's 2023 election from the Varuna constituency. Justice Sunil Dutt Yadav delivered the verdict in the afternoon.

The petition was filed by K Shankara, a voter from Varuna, who argued that the Congress party's five election guarantees in its 2023 state polls manifesto amounted to bribery and corrupt practices under the Representation of the People Act. He claimed Siddaramaiah had approved the manifesto and that the promises were aimed at influencing voters in the Varuna constituency.

Shankara sought to nullify Siddaramaiah's election and demanded a six-year ban on his participation in future elections. Representing the petitioner, Senior Advocate Pramila Nesargi argued that the guarantees such as free bus travel for women, complimentary electricity, rice distribution, financial assistance to female heads of households, and unemployment benefits for graduates were discriminatory towards men and violated the right to equality under Article 14 of the Constitution.

The High Court had sought Siddaramaiah's response in July 2023. His counsel, Senior Advocate Ravivarma Kumar, denied all allegations, stating there was no evidence that the manifesto constituted voter bribery. He dismissed the petition as a "copy-paste" effort and argued for its rejection. The court's decision follows a similar verdict in March 2024, when Justice S. Vishwajith Shetty dismissed an election petition against MLA Rizwan Arshad, which contained comparable arguments.

— BMB

Towards sustainable lakes: Lessons from restoration efforts in Bengaluru

PRIYANKA JAMWAL
BY INVITATION
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Bengaluru, once called as the 'City of Lakes', is now confronted by multiple environmental challenges, with environmental degradation as one of the pressing concerns. Rapid urbanization and inadequate wastewater treatment infrastructure have resulted in rapid degradation of urban lakes. Approximately 50% of the water entering the lakes is a mix of partially treated and untreated wastewater. The recently restored lakes with diversion channels also receive wastewater inflows during heavy rains thereby increasing the organic and nutrient content in the lake. Widespread algal blooms, fish kills, foul odours, and frothing have become a common occurrence.

The current approach to lake restoration follows a standard process. Communities raise concerns about the degradation of lake, prompting government authorities or private organisations to take actions. The first step to this is preparation detailed project report (DPR). This report is based on rapid assessments of water quality, biodiversity, and hydrology and outlines standard interventions commonly dredging/desilting, diversion channels, and artificial islands to enhance biodiversity and environmental amenities at the lake. The second step involves approval of the DPR from the authority followed by the implementation of these measures. However, this approach has limitations.

> **For lake restoration to be truly effective, a more tailored and science-based approach is needed. The first step...is to develop a thorough understanding of the specific problems at the lake**

One of the major gaps is the lack of community involvement in setting restoration priorities. Absence of community engagement leads to unrealistic expectations that restoration will result in near potable-quality of lake water. Considering the budget allocated for restoration and catchment conditions of the lake, this is rarely achievable. As a result, when these expectations are not met sense of failure prevails within the community. Another issue with this approach is the poor management of biodiversity. Indigenous plants are replaced with exotic species, and shoreline vegetation is cleared to increase the water spread area. This disrupts ecosystems and reduces pollution-assimilation capacity of the lake. In some cases, interventions like excessive dredging have been reported to degrade water quality by reducing the water circulation causing harm to aquatic life. These shortcomings are the results of reliance on a generic, one-size-fits-all checklist of interventions.

For lake restoration to be truly effective, a more tailored and science-based approach is needed. The first step in this process is to develop a thorough understanding of the specific problems at the lake. Each lake has distinct characteristics shaped by its history and catchment conditions. Restoration efforts should begin with detailed assessments informed by first-hand data and the insights of local communities. The next step involves comprehensive analysis to identify and quantify pollution sources, community interests and biodiversity hotspots. This provides the foundation to design interventions such as bioswales (landscape features that collect polluted stormwater runoff, soak it into the ground, and filter out pollution), constructed wetlands, shoreline rehabilitation that are based on robust scientific evidence and community interests. The scientific tools also allow stakeholders to predict and compare the impact of various interventions on lake health thereby providing guidance with choosing interventions that are financial and ecological viable. Additionally, this also helps set up realistic targets.

Monitoring lake health after the interventions are implemented is an important step to generate evidence on the efficacy of restoration efforts. A transparent monitoring system ensures sustainability of restoration efforts. In this respect volunteers, lake groups and citizens can use simple tools like Secchi disk (water transparency) to track changes in water clarity of the lake.

Lakes in the city face significant challenges, but these can be addressed through a holistic approach. The current reliance on rigid, checklist-based methods are inadequate towards achieving restoration. By adopting a comprehensive and tailored strategy, involving both government and private stakeholders, restoration efforts can yield lasting results. Detailed problem identification, system-wide analysis, evidence-based interventions, and sustained monitoring are essential to transforming these lakes into vibrant ecosystems. While the journey may be long, it is crucial—not just for Bengaluru, but as a model for scaling up restoration efforts across urban ecosystems in India.

The author is Programme lead (Water and Society programme) and Senior Fellow, ATREE

HEALTH TIP: Some collagen-boosting foods are: leafy greens, eggs, and bell peppers

For better skin include antioxidant-rich foods such as berries, tomatoes, citrus fruits in your diet

BangaloreMirror | 7
Wednesday, April 23, 2025
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SLAYING SUMMER

AM to PM summer skincare routine for sensitive skin

Whether you're stepping out for a sunny brunch or winding down after a long day, this AM to PM guide will help you care for your skin effortlessly. Let's break down the essentials, so you can enjoy the season with a healthy, glowing complexion!

STEP 1: Gentle Cleanser

Start your morning by washing away sweat, oil and any residue from your pillow. A mild, fragrance-free cleanser helps remove impurities without stripping your skin. Look for soothing ingredients like aloe vera or chamomile to calm any overnight redness.
Pro Tip- Use lukewarm water as hot water can make sensitive skin dry and irritated.

STEP 2: Hydrating Toner

A toner helps refresh your skin and preps it for the next steps in your summer skin care routine for sensitive skin. Choose an alcohol-free toner with hydrating ingredients like rose water or glycerin to keep your skin plump and soothed. This step also helps restore your skin's natural pH balance.
Pro Tip- Apply it with your hands instead of a cotton pad to avoid unnecessary friction.

STEP 3: Vitamin C or Niacinamide Serum

Antioxidants protect your skin from sun damage and pollution. Vitamin C brightens dull skin, while niacinamide strengthens the skin barrier and reduces redness. A lightweight serum absorbs quickly, giving your skin the nourishment it needs.
Pro Tip- If Vitamin C feels too strong, try a milder formula or use it every other day.

STEP 4: Lightweight Moisturizer

Hydration is key, even in summer! In your skincare routine, a lightweight, non-greasy moisturizer locks in moisture without making your skin feel heavy. Look for ingredients like hyaluronic acid or ceramides to keep your skin soft and healthy.
Pro Tip- If your skin feels extra oily, opt for a gel-based moisturizer instead of a cream.

STEP 5: Broad-Spectrum Sunscreen

Sunscreen is a must, no matter the season! Choose a broad-spectrum SPF 50 that protects against both UVA and UVB rays. A mineral sunscreen with zinc oxide or titanium dioxide is great for sensitive skin as it won't cause irritation.
Pro Tip- Apply sunscreen 15–20 minutes before stepping out and don't forget your ears and neck!

STEP 6: Lip Balm with SPF

Your lips need sun protection too! As part of your skincare routine, use a nourishing lip balm with SPF to keep them from getting dry, chapped, or sunburned. Go for a hydrating formula with shea butter or coconut oil for extra care.
Pro Tip- Reapply your lip balm every few hours, especially if you're outdoors.

STEP 7: Lightweight Face Mist

A refreshing face mist helps keep your skin cool and hydrated throughout the day. Pick one with ingredients like cucumber or rose water to soothe and calm any irritation. It's also a great way to freshen up your skin without disturbing your makeup.
Pro Tip- Store your mist in the fridge for an extra cooling effect on hot days!

PM Summer Skincare Routine For Sensitive Skin

STEP 1: Mild Cleanser

After a long day, your skin needs a deep yet gentle cleanse to remove sunscreen, dirt, and sweat. As part of your summer skincare routine for sensitive skin, use a mild, non-stripping cleanser to avoid irritation while keeping your skin fresh and clean.
Pro Tip- Double cleanse if you wear makeup or heavy sunscreen to ensure every trace is gone.

STEP 2: Soothing Toner

A calming toner helps restore your skin's pH balance and preps it for the next steps. Ingredients like chamomile, green tea, or Centella Asiatica work wonders in soothing sensitive skin.
Pro Tip- Apply the toner with your hands and gently press it into your skin for better absorption.

STEP 3: Hydrating Serum

At night, your skin needs extra hydration to repair itself, making it an essential step in your skincare routine. A hyaluronic acid serum pulls moisture into the skin, keeping it plump and dewy. If your skin gets easily irritated, look for formulas with added soothing ingredients like panthenol or allantoin.
Pro Tip- Apply your serum on slightly damp skin to boost hydration and lock in moisture.

STEP 4: Barrier-Repair Moisturizer

Sensitive skin thrives when its protective barrier is strong. A rich yet non-greasy moisturizer with ceramides, shea butter, or squalane locks in hydration and strengthens your skin. It also helps reduce redness and irritation overnight.
Pro Tip- Don't forget to apply moisturizer to your neck—it needs just as much care as your face!

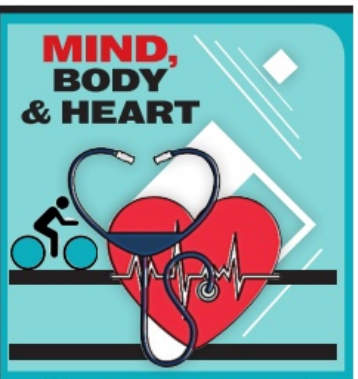
STEP 5: Overnight Hydrating Mask

For an extra boost of hydration in your summer skincare routine for sensitive skin, a lightweight overnight mask works wonders. Ingredients like oat extract, honey, or ceramides help deeply nourish and repair sensitive skin while you sleep, leaving it soft and refreshed by morning.
Pro Tip- Use 2-3 times a week if your skin feels extra dry or irritated.

Tips for Sensitive Skin During Summers

Stick to a Gentle Routine: Harsh products can make sensitive skin worse, especially in summer. Use mild, fragrance-free cleansers, lightweight moisturizers, and soothing serums to keep your skin calm and happy.
Hydration is Key: Hot weather can dry out your skin, so drink plenty of water and use hydrating ingredients like hyaluronic acid and aloe vera. A face mist can also give an instant refresh during the day.
Sunscreen is Non-Negotiable: Sensitive skin needs extra sun protection! Use a broad-spectrum SPF 50 sunscreen every morning and reapply every 2-3 hours if you're outdoors. Choose mineral sunscreens with zinc oxide for a gentle option.
Keep it Cool: Avoid hot showers and direct sun exposure for too long. If your skin feels irritated, use chilled aloe vera gel, store your skincare in the fridge, or apply a cold compress for instant relief.
Less is More: Summer isn't the time to overload your skin with too many products. Stick to the basics—cleanse, hydrate, protect, and soothe. Avoid heavy creams, alcohol-based toners, and strong activities that can trigger irritation.

—Unnati Sheth, Femina



All you need to know about...

Fatty, sugary diets

Hinders cognitive function
In a significant study, researchers have linked fatty and sugary diets to impaired cognitive function.

Spatial navigation
The team from University of Sydney looked at the relationship between high-fat, high-sugar (HFHS) diets, particularly those high in refined sugar and saturated fat, and first-person spatial navigation.
Spatial navigation is the ability to learn and remember a path from one location to another, a process that can approximate the health of the brain's hippocampus, said the study published in the International Journal of Obesity.

Effect on hippocampus
Dr Dominic Tran from the Faculty of Science's School of Psychology led the research, which found HFHS diets have a detrimental effect on some aspects of cognitive function. It is likely those effects centre on the hippocampus, the brain structure important for spatial navigation and memory formation, rather than acting across the entire brain.

Easily reversible
"The good news is we think this is an easily reversible situation," Dr Tran said. "Dietary changes can improve the health of the hippocampus, and therefore our ability to navigate our environment, such as when we're exploring a new city or learning a new route home."
The research team recruited 55 university students aged between 18 and 38.

Good diet matters
Dr Tran said the results highlight the importance of making good dietary choices to maintain healthy brain function.
We've long known eating too much refined sugar and saturated fat brings the risk of obesity, metabolic and cardiovascular disease, and certain cancers. We also know these unhealthy eating habits hasten the onset of age-related cognitive decline in middle age and older adults.

—IANS

Probe urged into K'taka Prison Manual provisions

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to protect their health."

Drawing comparisons with other states, Murthy noted that Kerala's prison department provides non-vegetarian meals on alternate days, while Karnataka offers it only once a week, on Fridays. "The disparity between states is stark. If Kerala can offer non-vegetarian meals more regularly, Karnataka too must re-evaluate its policies and improve inmate welfare," he said.

Lack of proper menstrual hygiene

The activist also pointed out the lack of proper menstrual hygiene support for female inmates, as per sources irregular or insufficient supply of sanitary pads, which he called a violation of human dignity and basic rights.

Activists have urged the Commission to investigate whether the Karnataka Prison Manual includes provisions for food quality checks, involvement of nutritionists, and adequate health oversight. If such systems are missing, Murthy said they must be included immediately.

The complaint aims to push authorities to recognise and act upon the basic human rights of prisoners, ensuring better food, health, and hygiene standards across Karnataka's correctional facilities.

HC reserves order on bail pleas of Ranya Rao, co-accused

The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday reserved its decision on the bail applications filed by Kannada actress Ranya Rao alias Harshavardhini Ranya and co-accused Tarun Konduru Raju in connection with a gold smuggling case.

Justice S Vishwajith Shetty reserved the order after hearing arguments from both sides.

The case stems from a Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) operation at Kempegowda international airport on March 3, during which gold bars worth Rs 12.56 crore were seized from Ranya Rao.

A follow-up search at her residence led to the recovery of gold jewellery worth Rs 2.06 crore and Rs 2.67 crore in cash.

Both Rao and Raju are facing serious charges under multiple sections of the Customs Act, including those related to illegal import and smuggling of gold.

Senior Advocate Sandesh Chouta, representing Rao, argued that the DRI did not follow proper procedures during the search and seizure. He pointed to non-compliance with Section 102 of the Customs Act, which mandates that a person being searched has the right to be taken before a magistrate or a senior customs officer.

The counsel also highlighted irregularities in the search documents and claimed that the officer who conducted the search and made the arrest falsely claimed to be a gazetted officer.

Chouta further alleged that Rao's family wasn't properly informed about her arrest.

"Her husband was only informed over a phone call, not in writing, which is against the rules," he said. **PTI**

Uranium in drinking water above 300 mcg/litre can harm kidney: Docs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The water quality analysis was conducted by the Central Groundwater Board (CGWB) on 75 groundwater samples from 28 Gram Panchayats in Doddaballapur in September 2024. As many as 36 samples had high levels of Uranium (WHO standards).

In the post-monsoon period, out of 92 samples, 30.43% samples detected uranium above the permissible limit. Uranium contamination is geogenic in origin, and it is confined to the deeper aquifer system.

Healthcare experts say that although not much is known about the health effects of low-level exposure, uranium in drinking water above 300 micrograms/litre can lead to kidney damage.

High nitrate level

Nitrate contamination was also prominent in some locations. About 33% of the 75 samples had nitrate levels more than the permissible WHO limit. During post-monsoon, 26.08% samples have Nitrate above the permissible limit.

Anthropogenic contamination of nitrate is reported in the groundwater of the taluk. Iron and Fluoride contamination is also reported in some locations during post-monsoon sampling. As per the report, the source of fluoride can be geogenic or anthropogenic. During Post-monsoon, out of 92 samples, 6 samples (6.52%) detected Fluoride above the permissible limit (> 1.5 ppm).

Experts say that nitrate contamination can be mitigated by improving fertiliser management in the agricultural fields. Also, multiple small applications of nitrate fertilisers through sprinkler/drip irrigation systems can increase fertiliser efficiency and reduce nitrate leaching into groundwater.

Over-exploited water level

CGWB also analysed the dynamic groundwater resource of 28 panchayats. Groundwater in all 28 panchayats was found to be over-exploited, with stages of extraction ranging from 114% to 370%.

Panchayat-wise assessment of the gap in drinking water needs showed that 15 out of the 28 panchayats (54%) fall under the 'high risk' category, 1 under 'at risk' category, and 12 in the 'safe' category.

According to CGWB, the major extraction is for agricultural purposes. An increase in population, rapid urbanization, and industrialization has resulted in an increasing use of groundwater resources.

"Any decision about future utilisation depends on having a clear understanding of the status of the resource, the amount that has already been extracted, the amount remaining, and the impact of further depletion," the CGWB report has noted.

Measures to improve water table

While the situation is grim, rainfall runoff can be arrested through 151 check dams, 37 percolation tanks and 1 subsurface dyke, said the report.

Experts say identifying and maintaining perennial lakes and ponds in the area should be considered for water management.

Moreover, a geophysics survey should be conducted in the area to identify potential zones in those panchayats for a sustainable groundwater source for drinking water supply.

The CGWB report also underlined that 31 borewells in Doddaballapur are either defunct or abandoned due to low yield or poor construction practices. These borewells may be used as a recharge structure to augment the groundwater recharge

Moreover, mandatory rooftop rainwater harvesting structures in Government departments, hospitals, and school buildings in the taluk should be created.

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I, Sowmya Raghavendra w/o Raghavendra Narayana Reddy R/o No 1719, 13th Main 31st Cross, Banashankari 2nd Stage, B'luru-560070 have changed my name to Sowmya Hosakote Chandrareddy for all purposes

I Hemanath Kumar S/O Shambulingam ,Residing At, No 25/1, 3rd Main Road, 14th Cross, Chinnayana Palya, Adugodi Post, Bengaluru 560030 Have Changed My Name to Hemanth Kumar Shambulingam For All Purposes.

I, Shakunthala W/o Kumar. S R/o No.16,Near government school, Sriramapura,jakkur post, B'luru-560064 have changed my name to Shakunthala Kumar .

I, Lokaraju Y, S/o Y. Muniraju, R/at No.46, 12 A Cross, Nandee swara Layout, Madavara VTC, Madavara Post, Madavara, Bangalore-562123 here by declare that Lokaraju Y and Yellamrajugari Lokaraju, both the names belongs to me only, vide affidavit dt: 22.04.2025 before notary A.Manjula B.lore

I Nandan Kumar S/o Annappayya born on 27/07/1976 residing at EA 4 Magan samara Mews JP Nagar 7th phase have changed my name to Given name :NANDAN and Surname: KUMAR vide affidavit dt. 18/04/2025 at Bangalore

I, TABASSUM TAJ G R/at No. 112/1, 14th Cross, 1st Main Road, Bapujinagar Bangalore-560026 have changed my name to TABASSUM TAJ vide affidavit dated: 19/4/2025 Before Notary Deepa.M Bangalore.

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20 feared dead in terror attack

Militants open fire on tourists in Pahalgam in one of the worst attack on civilians in years

Security personnel rush to the spot after terrorists attacked a group of tourists at Pahalgam, in Anantnag district, Jammu & Kashmir, Tuesday; A tourist being brought to a medical facility

At least 20 people were feared killed after suspected militants opened fire on tourists in Jammu and Kashmir territory on Tuesday, three security sources said, the worst attack on civilians in the troubled Himalayan region for years.

The attack occurred in Pahalgam, a popular destination in the scenic, mountainous region where mass tourism, especially during the summer months, has resurged as Islamist militant violence has eased in recent years.

One security source put the death toll at 20, while the second put it at 24 and the third at 26. All three spoke on the condition of anonymity as they were not authorised to speak to the media.

"The firing happened in front of us," one witness told broadcaster India Today, without giving his name. "We thought someone was setting off firecrackers, but when we heard other people (screaming), we quickly got out of there..., saved our lives and ran." "For four km, we did not stop ... I am shaking," another witness told India Today.

The attack took place in an off-the-road meadow and two or three militants were involved, the Indian Express newspaper reported, citing an unidentified senior police officer. "The death toll is still being ascertained so I don't want to get into those details," Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said in a post on X. "Needless to say, this attack is much larger than anything we've seen directed at civilians in recent years." The nationalities of the victims were not immediately known.

A little-known militant group called the "Kashmir Resistance" claimed responsibility for the attack in a social media message. It expressed discontent that more than 85,000 "outsiders" had been settled in the region, spurring a "demographic change".

"Consequently, violence will be directed toward those attempting to settle illegally," it said.

Reuters could not independently verify the source of the message.

"Those behind this heinous act will be brought to justice ... They will not be spared!" Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted on X. "Their evil agenda will never succeed. Our resolve to fight terrorism is unshakable and it will get even stronger." —Reuters

Tourist from Karnataka killed

Manjunath Rao from Shivamogga, was killed in the terrorist attack.
The deceased, Manjunath Rao, originally hailed from Kunimakki village in Koppa taluk of Chikkamagaluru district. His father served as a manager at a MAMCOS cooperative society in Shivamogga, where the family eventually settled after retirement. Nearly two decades ago, the family moved to Shivamogga, where Manjunath later established himself in the real estate business. Sources said that Manjunath was on a vacation to Kashmir with his wife and son. His wife is currently employed as a manager at a MAMCOS society in Birur, in Kadur. The family embarked on the six-day tour on April 19, soon after their son's PU exams. Just two days before the attack, Manjunath had spoken to a relative, Ashok, over the phone and had informed him that they would return to Shivamogga on April 24.

SC: Match-fixing has big effect on country's economy

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said cricket match fixing has serious financial ramifications on the country's economy as it offered to go deeper into the 2019 T20 Karnataka Premier League scandal.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh appointed advocate Shivam Singh as amicus curiae to assist it in a plea filed by Karnataka Police against the January 10, 2022 order of the high court.

"We are keen to go deeper into the issue. It has a very serious ramification in the economy. Today, we don't want to observe anything which would look like we are pre-judging the issue. But this kind of betting has very serious financial ramifications on the economy," the bench said.

Justice Kant took note of the fact that appeal of Karnataka government was filed in 2022 and has now come before the court after three years.

"Where has this matter disappeared? For three years it was not listed. Tell us who was waiting for my retirement," the judge said.

The court then directed the matter not to be deleted from the causelist after four weeks and sought an explanation from the registry for not listing the case.

Additional solicitor general K M Nataraj, appearing for the Centre, said match fixing was detrimental to the sports community.

The bench told advocate Singh to assist the court as he was good in sports law and has authored a book on the subject.

"You can assist us in the matter. It is simple 419 IPC or 420 IPC or something more. The state will have their own viewpoint but we want a neutral person like in sports we have an umpire," Justice Kant said.

The judge recalled a bail matter in which a person was lured to betting and lost everything.

"He has virtually become a beggar and is inside the jail. Whole family is now in crisis. They were leading a good life and now completely destroyed," the judge shared.

Underlining the "ramifications and implications" the court appointed the amicus curiae and ordered, "Registry is directed to provide him complete records and the counter affidavit filed by UOI."

The top court on September 30, 2022 issued notice on the matter.

On January 10, 2022, the high court said instances of match fixing unearthed by the Bengaluru crime branch police in 2019 during an investigation of corruption involving cricket players and team managements in the Karnataka Premier League T20 tournament did not amount to cheating and quashed the chargesheet filed against three players and a team official in the KPL. —PTI

QUICKREAD IN BENGALURU

Professor assaulted for objecting to littering

KS Layout Police have registered a case of assault against three individuals, who allegedly thrashed a private college professor over a minor argument near Kadirenahalli Cross in Minhaj Nagar.
The incident occurred when Arabindo Gupta, the victim, was riding his two-wheeler and noticed the occupants of a car recklessly tossing a garbage bag, containing glass pieces, onto the roadside. Concerned that it could pose a danger to pedestrians and commuters, Gupta confronted them.
The situation escalated and the trio allegedly assaulted him, leaving him with injuries on his face. After the attack, they fled the scene. Gupta later sought medical treatment and approached the police to file a complaint. He also uploaded a video on social media narrating the incident and highlighting the aggression he faced for speaking up. Following the complaint, police have registered a case under charges of causing hurt and have launched an investigation. Police visited the spot on Tuesday. BMB

Chain-snatcher arrested

Konanakunte Police have arrested a man involved in a case of chain snatching and multiple two-wheeler thefts. The police recovered stolen property worth Rs 8 lakh from the accused, including a 15-gram gold chain and eight two-wheelers.
The investigation began after a woman filed a complaint with the police stating that her Mangalsutra was stolen while she was returning home by bus from work. Police gathered leads from multiple angles that led to the arrest of the accused near the Chowdeshwari Temple in Vivarrasa Colony, along with a two-wheeler.
During the interrogation, the accused confessed to committing several two-wheeler thefts in areas under the jurisdiction of Konanakunte, Jayanagar, Gnanabharathi, Tavarekere, Kumbalagodu, Anekal, Ramanagara, and Bannerghatta police stations. He also revealed that he had pledged the stolen gold chain at a firm in Shivamogga and had parked the stolen vehicles in a vacant plot behind the BMTC bus depot in Pillagana. BMB

Bomb hoax at two institutions

Students and staff at RV College of Engineering and the Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath were safely evacuated as precautionary checks were conducted throughout the premises on Tuesday morning, they said. After extensive searches, preliminary investigations confirmed that the emails were hoax threats and no explosive devices were found, a senior police officer said. In a complaint to Kengeri police station, RV College of Engineering stated, "We have received two emails from Rajput Sindaar (sindaarrajput@gmail.com) on April 21 at 9.13 pm and 9.31 pm stating "Bomb blast in your college" and "Save ur students and principal life from bomb blast". "We got a call around 11 am. The threat emails were discovered by staff while going through routine communication on email. The threats were the RV College of Engineering and the Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath. As soon as we received calls, we dispatched bomb disposal squads and sniffer dog units to the campuses," he said. "Nothing suspicious was found. It turned out to be hoax threats and we have registered two separate cases in this regard," he added.. PTI

Celebrating Ashadhi Ekadashi Since 2005
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Prathamesh Laghate
Mugdha Vaishampayan | Anand Bhate

Co-Artistes : Prasad Padhye, Sukhad Munde, Aditya Oke
Shadaj Godkhindi and Suryakant Surve

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(Few Seats Reserved)

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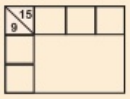
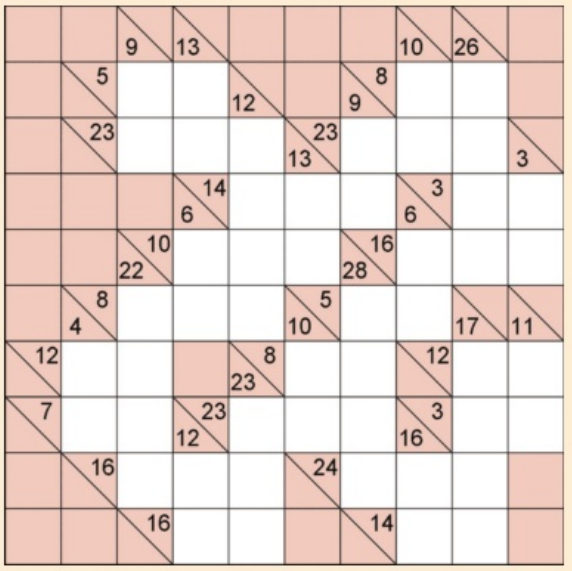
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

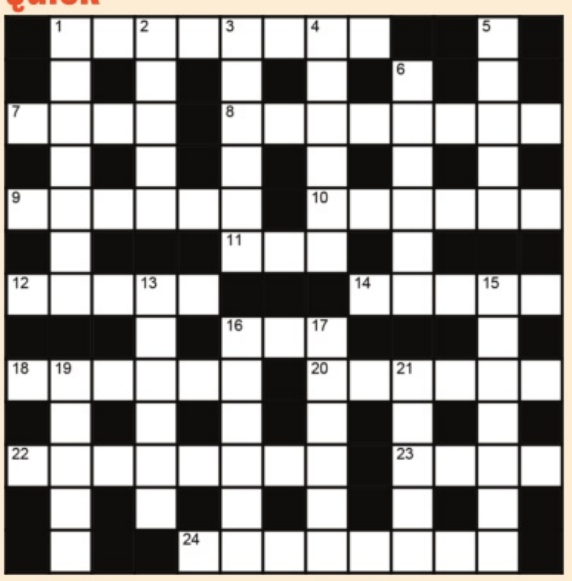


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Makes happen or brings about an expected or surprising act (5,3)
7 Scheme of procedure (4)
8 Dar Es Salaam's location (8)
9 Table of fixed charges and rates (6)
10 Christian festival (6)
11 A __ cry : a long way (3)
12 Honour a debt ? (3,2)
14 That is to Cato (2,3)
16 599 for the Romans (3)
18 Dweller on the Red Sea (6)
20 Biden's VP (6)
22 Answer (8)
23 You will find the remnants of his fort in the City Market area (4)
24 Passed away (8)

DOWN

1 __ __ _ ghost : scared to death, in a way (4,2,1)
2 Hawaiian veranda–"a nail" anagram? (5)
3 Begin a journey (3,3)
4 Discoverer (6)
5 Steal; hit hard (5)
6 Didn't fail? (6)
13 Advantageous (6)
15 Slid (7)
16 Split, cut off or sever (6)
17 By _____ : fortuitously? (6)
19 An era (5)
21 Ceremonies (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: P EQUALS R

KOS YPRWPSVV RB PNXSPV KR KOS RTSEA NV ARK VR PEYNU EV KOEK RB HEA KR SPPRP.

Linemaro

Something's wrong with my phone (what?) your number is not in it

Mindchow

Time you enjoy wasting is not wasted time

Joke of the day

What part of a computer does a spider use? The webcam

Loop

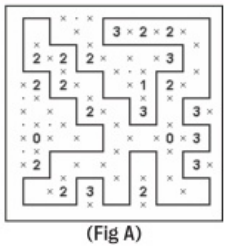
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

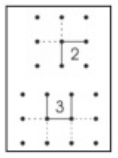
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

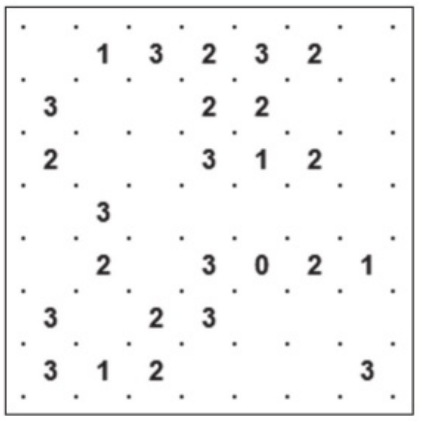
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



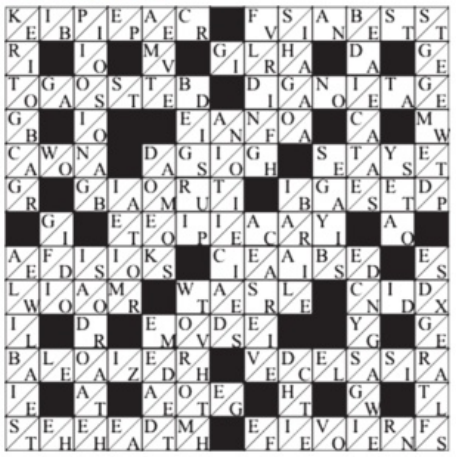
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



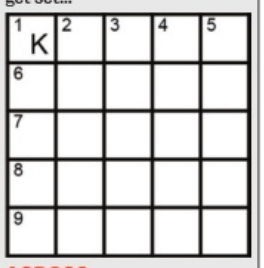
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

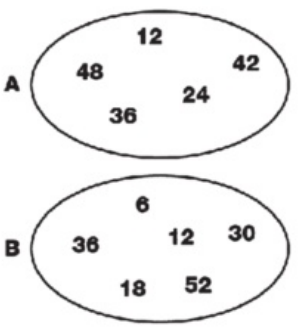
1 Stark; 6 Ramee; 7 Dirge; 8 Genoa; 9 To nix

DOWN

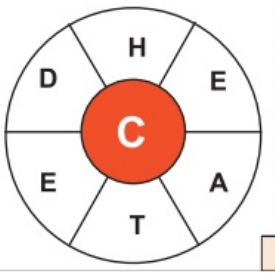
1 A kart; 2 Mi Goa; 3 Red ox; 4 Singe; 5 Terne

Mensapuzzle

Which number is the odd one out in each oval?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; 11 Good; 13 Outstanding

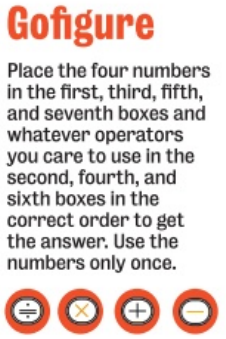
SudokuChallenge

6	4				7			
	9	7		2	3	5		
							1	
				3	1	8		
7			9		2			6
		2	7	6				
	7							
		4	5	8		7	9	
			2				4	5

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 12

2 3 4 7

Medium = 6

1 4 4 6

Hard = 35

2 4 5 6

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

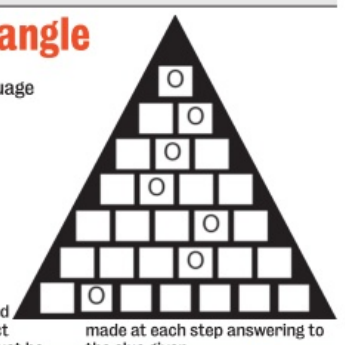
Differences: 1. Window is missing. 2. Tree is taller. 3. Clipboard is longer. 4. Scarf is different. 5. Pocket is lower. 6. Sign is different.

Riddler

Frederick died after a long and productive life of 87 years, but this epitaph was written on his headstone: Frederick lived a good long life, He loved his children and his wife, He was honest, kind and deserved nothing but praise, Even if he only had twenty-one birthdays. How is this possible?

Alpha triangle

1 Circular letter
2 An artificial language
3 Hide-hair link
4 Par
5 Insignificant
6 Tell, notify
7 Verify



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

GOOD HEAVENS! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
CORRECTIN' YER MISTAKE!
I YAM TRYIN' TA PULL OUT TH' HAIRS YA GROWED ON SWEE'PEA'S HEAD!
O.G. WOTASNOZZLE'S INVENTIONS DON'T FAIL... YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME!
popeye.com

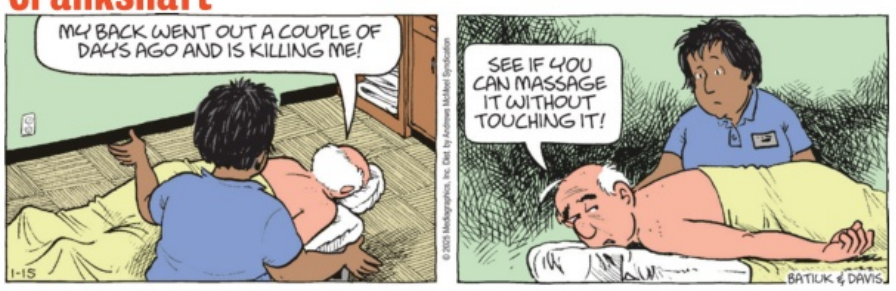
Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

THERE AREN'T ANY TURTLES IN THIS ONE!
MAYBE THE TURTLE IS ON A BATHROOM BREAK! LET'S TRY THE OTHER ONE.
HMM... MAYBE NOT THIS TANK EITHER.
CLOSED FOR CLEANING
WHY DOES EVERY TURTLE HATE ME?!
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft



Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Health issues might make you feel impatient today. Try to manage your temper. Avoid spending on unnecessary items, as it could impact your savings. Couples are advised to steer clear of arguments over trivial matters to avoid misunderstandings or tension.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
You may meet someone influential who could support your professional growth. With their help, your network may strengthen, and you might feel motivated to bring fresh ideas into your work or business. Investing more capital now could bring future gains. Expect a busy, joyful time with family and social events.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Your mother's health seems stable, which brings peace of mind. You'll enjoy your work and may receive recognition for your efforts. However, mental overexertion could leave you tired. A heavy workload might keep you away from family gatherings.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
You'll feel content at work today. A short business trip could be on the cards. Visiting a religious place might help you reconnect with inner peace. Guidance from a mentor or spiritual advisor may bring clarity to your goals.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
You may feel low today, possibly due to health concerns. It's best to postpone investments or launching new ventures, as gains may turn into losses. Focus on rest and healing before making major business moves.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Domestic harmony brings joy today. You might meet someone influential who could positively impact your career. Expect strong performance at work and possible rewards, including a promotion. Property-related disputes may also move toward resolution.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You're likely to be in good health and highly focused. Your performance at work will be impressive, possibly earning praise or new responsibilities. Legal matters may bring positive outcomes. You're in a strong position to handle rivals effectively.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
You're inclined to expand your knowledge today and recognise the value of intellectual growth. Learning to manage your temper will make work smoother. You may experience steady earnings, bringing ease to your workflow. Be cautious with new investments. Spending on loved ones brings emotional rewards, and couples will likely enjoy quality time together.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
You might feel unmotivated or detached from responsibilities today, which can lead to confusion. Try to be practical in how you approach your projects. Family care is important now, and if you're considering relocating, it's better to postpone those plans.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
A productive day awaits. Both work and home life show signs of progress. Staying focused helps you finish tasks efficiently, boosting your confidence. A short work trip could benefit your professional network and open new opportunities.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Domestic matters may take up your time today. You might spend on home décor or artifacts, just be mindful not to overspend on things you don't need, as it could attract negative energy. Also, be gentle in your conversations to maintain harmony at home.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today brings relief after a chaotic phase. Your energy and confidence can help you make bold decisions, especially regarding family business, which may now grow. Helping others boosts your reputation, and students will gain clarity about their career paths.

KIDZONE

Nishitha, Bengaluru

Raksha, Bengaluru

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= [3^4 / (1 + 1 ^ 2)]
= 3^4 / 3^2
= 3^2 = 9

RIDDLER
He was born on February 29th in a leap year. Consequently, in his 87 years, he only witnessed twenty-one of his actual birthdays. The other years there was no February 29th.

BULL'S EYE
Ache, ached, cede, detach, each, etch, etched, teach

FAST FIVE

K	A	R	S	T
A	M	E	E	R
R	I	D	G	E
A	G	O	N	E
T	O	X	I	N

STRIKE OUT

K	I	P	P	E	R	■	F	I	N	E
I	O	V	■	I	L	A	■	D	■	E
T	A	S	T	E	D	■	I	G	N	I
B	■	I	■	I	N	N	O	■	C	M
A	W	N	■	A	G	O	G	■	S	T
G	■	G	A	M	U	T	■	B	A	S
■	I	■	T	O	P	I	A	R	Y	■
A	D	I	O	S	■	C	E	A	S	E
L	O	O	M	■	W	E	R	E	■	N
I	■	D	■	M	O	D	I	■	G	E
B	L	A	Z	E	R	■	E	C	L	A
I	■	T	■	A	T	E	■	H	■	G
S	H	E	A	T	H	■	F	I	V	E

QUICK

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	H
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	L	C
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	E	E	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	T	I	P	U
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	I	O	N	S
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	P	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
A: 42; B: 52. In the first oval, all numbers are multiples of 4. In the second oval, all numbers are multiples of 3.

QUOTE UNCODE
The progress of rivers to the ocean is not so rapid as that of man to error.

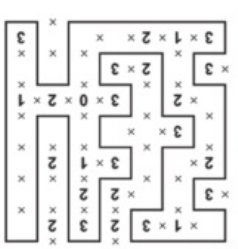
SUDOKU

8	6	1	2	7	9	3	4	5
3	2	4	5	8	6	7	9	1
5	7	9	3	1	4	6	2	8
4	3	2	7	6	8	1	5	9
7	1	8	9	5	2	4	3	6
9	5	6	4	3	1	8	7	2
2	8	3	6	4	5	9	1	7
1	9	7	8	2	3	5	6	4
6	4	5	1	9	7	2	8	3

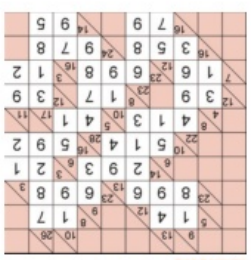
ALPHA TRIANGLE
0, Ro, Nor, Norm, Minor, Inform, Confirm.

GO FIGURE
Easy
3 – 2 + 7 + 4 = 12
Medium
4 + 6 – 4 x 1 = 6
Hard
6 / 2 + 4 x 5 = 35

LOOP



KAKURO



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Kriti it is
Reports suggest that Kriti Sanon is now the leading candidate to star opposite Ranveer in 'Don 3'. A report in Pinkvilla suggests that Kriti has given her primary consent to star in 'Don 3'

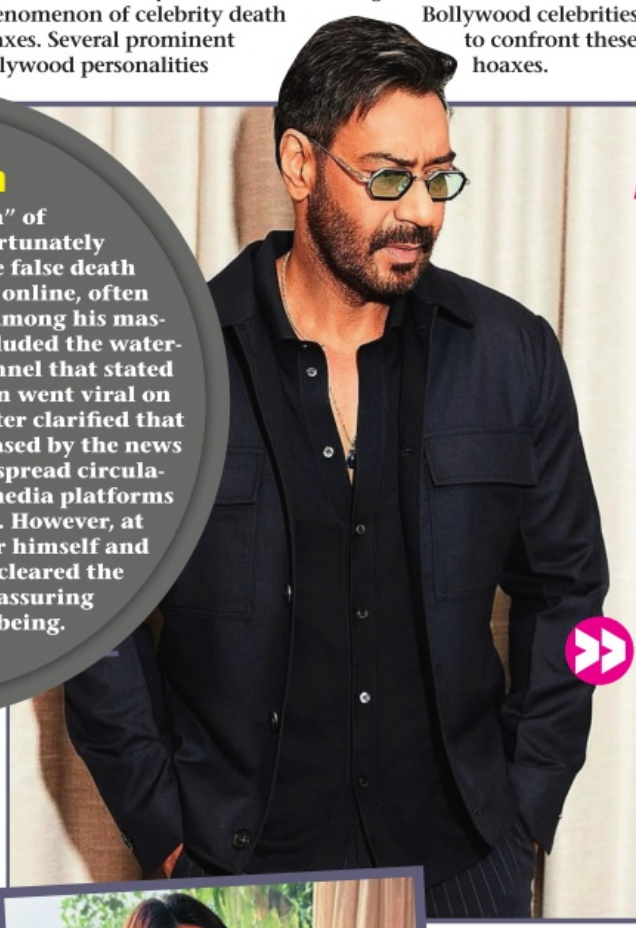
VERY MUCH ALIVE

Bollywood celebs who fell prey to death hoaxes

The pervasive nature of the internet and social media, while offering numerous benefits, has also unfortunately led to the distressing phenomenon of celebrity death hoaxes. Several prominent Bollywood personalities have, over the years, become victims of these false and often insensitive rumors, causing unnecessary anxiety among their fans and families. Here's a look at some Bollywood celebrities who have had to confront these unsettling death hoaxes. — ETimes

Amitabh Bachchan

The iconic "Shahenshah" of Bollywood has unfortunately been the subject of multiple false death rumors that have circulated online, often causing widespread concern among his massive fan base. One such post included the watermark of a renowned news channel that stated the actors' death. The post soon went viral on social media. It was however later clarified that the news was fake and not released by the news channel. There has been widespread circulation of such hoaxes on social media platforms suggesting the actor's death. However, at multiple occasions, the actor himself and his close family members cleared the air around the rumors assuring everyone of his well-being.



Ajay Devgn

Ajay Devgn has also been subject to online hoaxes that are circulating at a rapid pace. In the past, there was once such widely circulated death hoax that specifically claimed that Ajay Devgn had passed away in a helicopter crash near Mahabaleshwar. This rumor, which gained significant traction on social media and even prompted some media outlets to report prematurely, caused considerable concern among his fans and the film industry. However, these reports were quickly debunked by Ajay Devgn himself and his team, who clarified that he was safe and unharmed.

Naseeruddin Shah

This highly respected and veteran actor, known for his powerful performances and intellectual depth, has also been a subject of disturbing death hoaxes that have caused considerable concern within the film fraternity and among his admirers. False news of his passing has circulated on social media, prompting clarifications from his family members and close associates to dispel these untrue reports. The news of him being hospitalized surfaced online after the death of Veteran actor Rajesh Khanna. His son Vivaan Shah however dismissed the rumors through a tweet on X that his father was alright.

Katrina Kaif

Even younger and highly popular stars like Katrina Kaif have unfortunately been targeted by false death rumors that have surfaced on social media platforms. Katrina Kaif was recently the centre of multiple fake news circulating on social media that reported the actress to be dead. Despite these reports being quickly identified as hoaxes, they still caused distress among her fanbase. The family members of the actress later disregarded the claims of this fake news and stated that the actor was well and fine.

Award for PC

Global icon Priyanka Chopra Jonas is set to be honored with the inaugural Global Vanguard Award at Gold House's fourth annual Gold Gala, a premier celebration recognizing the 2025 A100 List and First Lights.

Priyanka will receive the inaugural Global Vanguard Honor for her unprecedented 25-year career bridging Asian Pacific and Western cultures through acclaimed work across Hindi cinema and Hollywood, her continual elevation of underrepresented voices, and her unparalleled global platform—recognized by Time 100 and Forbes' "Most Powerful Women."

The prestigious event, which shines a spotlight on the most influential Asian Pacific leaders and changemakers, will mark a historic moment as Chopra becomes the first recipient of the newly established accolade, recognizing her trailblazing global impact across entertainment, entrepreneurship, and philanthropy. Gold House is set to host its much-anticipated fourth annual Gold Gala on Saturday, May 10, 2025, at the renowned Music Center in the heart of downtown Los Angeles.

Tthe Gold Gala will return with over 600 influential attendees to honor the 2025 A100 List. — IANS

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Coming this Friday

The much-delayed film Gangster Alla Prankster is scheduled to arrive in theaters on Friday. Its shooting was wrapped up in April 2023. It is Girish Kumar's third movie as a director. He also plays the Prankster in the movie and Tilak Shekar of Ugram fame plays the Gangster.

"The Central Board of Film Certification gave a UA certificate to Gangster Alla Prankster without recommending any cuts. The movie is about a YouTuber who does prank videos. It can connect to all types of audiences, especially those who want to become somebody in society. It is a comedy, action, and drama film," said Girish Kumar. Viranika Shetty, who plays the female lead, said that she plays a college girl named Shruthi. "I am very happy to be part of the team.

We are promoting the movie through prank videos. The team played a prank on me without my knowledge. The video has become popular on social media," she said.

The producer is making arrangements to release the movie at around 60 screens across the state. The movie has four songs with music by John Kennedy. Ajay Kumar is the cinematographer. The film also features Bala Rajawadi, Girish Bijjal, Honnavalli Krishna, Sangeetha Anil, Sundar, Ratheesh Kumar, Majatalkies Pavan, Hanumanthe Gowda, and Bhawani Prakash.

Second innings

After a gap of more than two years, Ramanatha B aka Ram makes a comeback with movie Six T Nine, a tale of time. Ram made his debut as an actor, producer, and director in Sandalwood with Nahi Jnanena Sadrusham that was released in November 2022.

Ram is busy promoting Six T Nine in the US where he works as a software engineer. Recently, Ram received a pat on the back from none other than his favourite hero Hrithik Roshan who was in Chicago to participate in a movie shooting. "I am a hardcore fan of Hrithik Roshan. I met him in Chicago. I showed him some glimpses of the movie Six T Nine. He appreciated me for my passion towards making movies. He wanted to watch the movie when it was ready for screening," said Ram. He said the film is about a couple who are stuck in a time loop and face a lot of problems. "They continue doing the same things repeatedly. How they come out of it is the climax," he said.

Shruthi Bekal, who hails from Karnataka and was Mrs India USA 2020, plays the female lead in the movie.

The movie's shooting was held in and around Canyon and Texas. It has three songs and Saleem Raj has scored the music. "I am planning to release this movie in Karnataka shortly," he said.